

Minutes of the Boxley Parish Council Environment Committee Meeting held at Beechen Hall, Wildfell Close, Walderslade on 15 September 2025, commencing at 7.30pm.

Present: Cllrs A Brindle, I Davies, S Thompson, R Dines, V Jones, V Kellaway, J Akehurst and N Zand along with Mrs D Baylis (Parish Clerk)

- 1 **Apologies and absences**
Cllrs P Mclean and A Adams - Absent
- 2 **Declaration of Interests, Dispensations, Predetermination or Lobbying**
None declared.
- 3 **Motion to exclude the press and public from the meeting for all items in the Confidential Section.**
It was proposed by Cllr A Brindle, seconded by Cllr V Kellaway and all agreed to exclude members of the public from all items in the Confidential Section.

Public Session at the discretion of the Chairman. Parishioners may address the meeting with regard to any item on the Agenda (time limited to 3 minutes per person). Items not on the Agenda must be submitted to the Clerk in advance of the meeting. Non-parishioners are only able to address the meeting at the invitation of the Chairman.

No members of the public were present.

- 4 **Minutes of the Meeting held on 14 July 2025**
Agreed.
- 5 **Matters Arising from the Minutes**
Minute 3969 Item 20. It was agreed that Cllr Thompson would continue representing Boxley Parish Council at any meetings held with the STEM school over their travel plan and nuisance parking by parents in the vicinity of the school.
- 6 **Planning Applications for Consideration – DECISION**

25/50359/TPOA Beechen Hall, Boxley Parish Office, Wildfell Close, Boxley, Kent, ME5 9RU
Tree Preservation order proposal application to pollard oak tree with over 90% of crown die back to a height of approximately 7m and dismantle and fell the adjacent Field Maple.
This is not on BPC owned land and is being made by KCC.
Boxley Parish Council defers to the views of the Tree Officer but would like to see this application approved.

25/503299/TPOA 5 Ploughmans Way, Boxley, ME5 9DE
TPO application to one Ash Tree to prune branches from 20m to 10m to try to promote more new growth and to stop the current branches damaging the roof in the house which they are currently touching.
Boxley Parish Council defers to the views of the Tree Officer

25/503651/TPOA 10 Round Wood Close, Walderslade, Kent, ME5 9UL
Tree Preservation Order application: T1 Oak - Manage the tree under a cyclical pruning programme. Crown reduce the height by 3m from 18m to 14m, and width by 3m from 17m to 14m spread and remove any dead wood and all epicormic growth to manage the size and maintain a healthy growth.

The term Cyclical pruning programme includes the following:-

An annual visual tree assessment to check the structural integrity of the tree to ensure it is safe in the garden location.

Remove any deadwood that appears

Crown thin after possibly two or three years to allow light and air into the crown to maintain the trees health. An application would be make at that point.

Crown reduce again after three to five years depending on how the tree responds to the reduction. A longer time if necessary, if the growth is slow for instance.

The aim is to preserve, maintain and keep safe the mature Oak in the family garden setting.

Boxley Parish Council defers to the views of the Tree Officer

25/503592/TPOA 15 Podkin Wood, Walderslade, Kent, ME5 9LY

TPO Application to reduce the lateral growth of 1no. Chestnut tree (T001) remove 4m of lateral growth, reduce height by 2m and remove lower branches to clear main stem to 7m. To reduce lateral growth of 2no. Oak trees (T002_Oak1 and T002_Oak2) by 2m, remove 4m of lateral growth circumference, reduce height by 2m and remove lower branches to clear main stem to 6m. Remove all arisings from all three trees.

Boxley Parish Council defers to the views of the Tree Officer

25/503618/NMAMD Keswick Orchard Drive Weaving Kent ME14 5JG

Non material amendment to application 21/506745/FULL for the relocation of the wood burning flue to the South East elevation.

Boxley Parish Council have no material planning reasons to object to this application.

25/503584/SUB Blackthorn House The Nursery Bredhurst Kent ME7 3BJ

Submission of details pursuant to condition 8-(foul sewage treatment) 9-(decentralised and renewable or low-carbon sources of energy) subject to 23/505646/FULL

It was not felt a response was necessary to this application.

7. Ratifications

It was proposed by Cllr I Davies, seconded by Cllr R Dines and agreed to ratify the planning responses made out of meeting.

8. Planning Decisions, Appeals and Appeals Decisions

Report noted.

9. Highways and Byways – DECISION

9.1 Highways Improvement Plan.

It was agreed to add the following the BPC HIP:

Give way sign for the Harp Farm Road end of Yelsted Lane.

Speed reduction request for Tyland Lane from 60-30mph.

Cautionary signage for Tyland Lane. Pedestrians in road etc.

9.2 Junction 3 of the M2/Bluebell Hill

Report noted.

9.3 A249 Bearsted Road Major Infrastructure Project.

Report noted.

9.4 **Boxley Village**

It was proposed by Cllr S Thompson, seconded by Cllr J Akehurst and all agreed to commission the executive summary report to the agreed job specification from Citisense to include the data from the Bredhurst traffic counts. Budget of up to £2,000 set for this.

9.5 **Lower Thames Crossing update**

It was agreed to keep a watching brief on the key points of this project particularly the environmental mitigation.

9.6 **A229 Bluebell Hill Road Improvements**

The road works for the survey work had started and were scheduled to last for 12 weeks. The Clerk was asked to contact Spencer Dixon to ask for a meeting to discuss ongoing work, future plans and what was being done about the concerns raised by BPC and residents of Sandling. A letter would be sent to both MP's asking for support in ensuring that Sandling and its residents are respected in the A229 scheme.

9.7 **Any Highways issues raised at the meeting**

None raised.

10 **Lidsing**

Cllrs Jones had attended another meeting with Medway Council representatives. The SPD was only looking at Maidstone and needs to look further afield. The draft was being rewritten with the deadline this week for the Medway part. The plan was looking more joined up with bigger green spaces.

11 **Sandling**

The proposals from the Active Travel Team were discussed and another site visit would be arranged to look at the plans and costs for each part in detail. The decision on funding would be made out of meeting and ratified at the next meeting of the Committee.

12 **Policy and Procedures Review**

None on this Agenda.

13 **Parish Tour**

It was agreed to use 3 cars instead of hiring a minibus. The office would look for a cheaper minibus quotation if one was available. It was agreed to stop for lunch. Cllr Akehurst would ask if the Pond Café in Sandling would be able to accommodate this. The Clerk would circulate an itinerary once details were finalised.

14 **Mile Stones**

It was proposed by Cllr V Kellaway, seconded by Cllr J Akehurst and all agreed that Cllr Brindle should investigate the stones and their preservation/restoration further. Cllr Kellaway said that there were similar stones in Sandling and she would circulate pictures.

15 **Speed Watch**

It was agreed to advertise for volunteers to undertake the training and run the scheme. The Clerk would draft an advert for publication and contact the Community Beat Officer for a list of approved sites and their suggested poster wording.

16 **Task List**

Noted.

17 **Members and Officer's Reports**

None made.

18 Residents' Concerns

Lidsing Road from Junction with Forge Lane to Westfield Sole Road

The resident had requested speed reduction from 60mph to 40mph and had provide crash data evidence. It was agreed to add this to the BPC HIP.

Smell

The residents concern was discussed and the Clerk was asked to ascertain if the smell was at any particular time of year or time of day. One likely cause at this time of year is muck spreading by farmers.

19 Daffodil Planting

It was proposed by Cllr I Davies, seconded by Cllr N Zand and all agreed to purchase 50 kg of mixed bulbs for distribution.

20 Volunteer Groups

Report noted. The Clerk would contact the Friends of Weaving Heath to ask for a photograph of the new bench once it had been installed.

It was proposed by Cllr Brindle, seconded by Cllr Thompson and agreed that the meeting could be extended by 15 minutes.

21 Items for Next Agenda

None put forward at this meeting.

22 Next Meeting

Next Environment Committee meeting 13 October 2025.

In view of the confidential nature of the item about to be transacted, it is advised that the public and press were excluded from the meeting for Agenda item 18.

23 Enforcement and CIL/Section 106 updates from MBC

Report noted

24 5 Year Strategic Plan

Proposals for the plan would be sent to Cllr Brindle.

25 Traveller and Gypsy DPD

This was still in the design stage with potential to influence its content. Cllr Thompson advised contacting MBC Cllr Harwood for more information.

Meeting closed at 9.42 pm

Signed as a correct record of the proceedings.

Chairman Date